GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1344
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2016
Lower Salaries in Gems and Jewellery Sector
Shrirang Shri Chandu Barne

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether the Government is aware that lower average salaries in Indian gems and Jewellery sector compared to other manufacturing areas has led to acute shortage of labour in jewellery sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Government has any proposal to bring in reforms in gems and jewellery sector for the benefits of the workers;

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the gems and jewellery sector in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): Sector wise details of average salaries is not collected centrally. As per Quarterly Quick Employment Survey (QES) conducted by Labour Bureau, in selected labour intensive and export-oriented sectors there has been a decline during January, 2014 - December, 2015 of about 8,000 jobs in gems and jewellery sector.
(c) to (e): The Director General of Foreign Trade has various schemes to promote exports of gems and jewellery like advance procurement/ replenishment of precious metals from Nominated Agencies, Replenishment Authorization for gems, Replenishment Authorization for Consumables and Advance Authorization for precious metals.

Further, a new Scheme "Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana" has been announced in the Budget for 2016-17 with the objective of promoting employment generation and an allocation of Rs. 1000 crores has been made. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2016-17. Under the scheme employers including those in gems and jewellery sector would be provided an incentive for enhancing employment by reimbursement of the 8.33% EPS contribution made by the employer in respect of new employment.
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